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The Kansas News.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1857.

The Mohurrim.

The festival of "the Mohurrim" has been frequently alluded to in the reports of the news from India, but further than the "mere mention" thereof, the reader is left in darkness. Probably it has not come within the reading of one per cent. of those who peruse the daily papers to learn anything of this festival, towards which such attention has been drawn. We doubt not, therefore, that some account of it will prove interesting.

The "festival" of the Mohurrim is a fast which is observed by a large majority of the Mohammedan population of India in commemoration of the death of Hassan and Husein, two early leaders of the faithful and near relatives to the Prophet himself. Some of the Mohammedans, called the Sunnies, and living chiefly west of the Euphrates, do not believe in Hassan and Husein; while the others eastward, called Sheehes, regard the deaths of the Prophet's relatives as barbarous murders, entitling them to that reverence which is paid to martyrs. Not seldom is the Mohurrim month signified by bloodshed, caused by the rancorous rivalries of these two branches of the followers of Mohamed.

The occasion brings together immense multitudes of people. Everything is calculated to attract attention. The fast is celebrated for ten days; but it is sometimes kept for a much longer period. It is recorded of Nussir U-Deen, King of Oude, that he kept it forty days, having taken a vow in early life, that if he ever came to the throne, he would so devote himself to the glory of the faithful in full thankfulness for their care of him. Although much given to pleasure and the cultivation of European manners, Nussir kept his vow; living during the Mohurrim entirely with his male relatives—eschewing wine, wassail, and social dinner-parties, pigeon-fighting, and other merry pastimes to which he was passionately addicted. The author of the Private Life of an Eastern King kept the Mohurrim while in the service of Nussir U-Deen at Lucknow, and gives a very picturesque account of the magnificent humiliation and gorgeous sorrow characteristic of the time and Indian life.

As the Mohurrim commences, the Mohammedan population is, as it were, snatched from all earthly interest. The streets are silent, and add a mystery to the mourning which we know pervades the interior of every house. The next day the houses yield up their mourners, and the streets are crowded with people in the mantle of affliction, parading in funeral order to the various tombs, representations of the Mausoleum at Kerbela or Meshed, on the banks of the Euphrates, in which Hassan and Husein are buried. These tombs are set up in the embanarra of a chief, or in the house of some wealthy Mussulman—against the wall facing Mecca, under a canopy, which, in the royal embanarra, was made of green velvet with gold embroidery. Opposite to the tomb is a pulpit or rostrum, on which the officiating priest stands, his back to the tomb and his face "evermore towards Mecca"—that tomb of tombs. The scene, with its lustrous chandeliers, sparkling embroidery, glittering bullion-fringes, ornamented banners, and turbaned and bearded figures, wrapped in mysterious humiliation and expressive grief, calls up to the imagination the scenic wonders of the Arabian Nights' Entertainments. During the whole period of the Mohurrim green and red wax-lights are kept burning, and morning and evening mourning assemblies are held.

It is night; the lights are flaring upon the broad turbans; the glittering interior of the embanarra, says the chronicler of the Court of Lucknow, with chandeliers and wax tapers, its gilding and its banners, its fringes and its embroideries, is a blaze of light.—The preacher is reciting an account of the death of the two chiefs, his black eyes glowing with animation as he proceeds; his audience, at first so solemn and so quietly sad, being gradually wound up to passionate bursts of grief. The orator groans aloud as he recapitulates the disastrous story; his audience is deeply moved. Tears trickle from the eyes of more than one bearded face, sobs and groans issue from the others. At length, as if with a sudden unpremeditated burst, but really at the proper part of the service, the audience utters forth the names "Hassan!" "Husein!" in succession, beating the breast the while in cadence. At first somewhat gently and in a low tone are the names uttered, but afterward louder and more loud, until the whole embanarra rings again with the excited, prolonged, piercing wail. For fully ten minutes does this burst of grief continue—the beating of the breast, the loud uttering of the names, the beating ever louder and more resounding, the utterance gradually increasing in shrillness and piercing energy, until, in a moment, all is hushed again, and silence, as of deep affliction, falls like a pall upon the assembly.

After the exhaustion produced by this phrenzied demonstration, "beating the breast with the thermometer at ninety," Sherbet is handed round; the royal family (if present) indulge in the hockah—the curling smoke from which but adds to the magic reality of the scene—the devotees, resuscitating themselves by chewing a savory stimulant until the service proceeds, and the time comes round for the renewed thumping of breasts and chanting the names of the martyrs. The Moorsheah is chanted in conclusion, which affects the people highly, being in the vernacular and comprehended by all. At the close of this funeral dirge the assembly rises, recapitulates, *viva voce*, the names of the true leaders of the faithful, and curse, loud and deep, the usurping caliphs of the Sunnies. Such is an outline of the daily and nightly service during the Mohurrim, which, in other respects, is kept with becoming humility—the sheah families discountenancing luxury—the hardest charpoys or simple mats being substituted for the luxurious cushions, and barley, rice, and boiled peas, taking the place of hot curry and savory pilaw.

THE KANSAS NEWS.

"THE PEOPLE ALWAYS CONQUER."

By P. B. PLUMB.

EMPORIA, KANSAS, DECEMBER 5, 1857.

VOL. 1--No. 23.

From the New York Tribune.

Emancipation of Serfs in Russia.

We recently stated that Alexander II. of Russia is determined, in compliance with the beneficent genius of the age, to emancipate the serfs of his empire so far as circumstances will allow. Alexander I. and Nicholas both cherished the same idea, but both recoiled from its realization. The iron will of Nicholas bent and yielded to what was considered by his advisers the impregnable difficulties of the scheme, or the menaces it presented to the nobility, the throne, and the peace of the nation. Russian imperialism has been defined as despotism tempered by assassination. How far a dread of the "good old rule" of quietly putting the sovereign out of the way when his measures were particularly distasteful to the nobility, may have restrained Nicholas in his emancipation project, is of course unknown, but that his son and successor is not controlled by such fears, is certain.

The unchangeable resolve as regards emancipation is taken. Some considerable time since, a commission, presided over by the Grand Duke Constantine, was appointed to elaborate a suitable project. The labors of this body must be cautious and well pondered. The relations between the serfs and their masters are manifold and complicated, varying, according to diverse traditional customs, and the domestic and local exigencies of the different regions through which this gigantic empire extends. Divergent interests—nay, more—hostilities are to be conciliated. The nobility possess not only the serfs, but likewise the soil.—The problem to be solved is not only to restore human rights to the serfs, but to endow them at once with homesteads, which, of course, are to be cut out of the land owned hitherto exclusively by their masters. The latter are thus not only deprived of the capital represented by the serfs, but likewise of permanent laborers for the future working of the fields. To this loss, as we said, is to be added that of lands to be transformed into homesteads for the new freemen. It can be easily understood how the mass of the nobility might be apprehensive of their future condition. Undoubtedly, this revolution in the internal husbandry of the empire may occasion losses, though the appreciation of the value of land upon the manumission of serfs is inevitable. The ultimate results of emancipation will prove beneficial, socially and economically, to both nobility and peasantry; but at the start, and during the years of transition, the nobles will at least consider themselves the exclusive losers.—Their whole agricultural system must undergo a moral and technical change.

The existing commission receives proposals from all sides. The nobility submit their opinions, the majority admitting the necessity of emancipation, but differing infinitely as to the mode. One of the cardinal objections is that the soil and climate of many northern counties being less susceptible of culture, the emancipated serfs might abandon those regions and settle in the more fertile provinces, for instance, in central and southern Russia, between the Dnieper, the Volga, and the Don, forming an immense and rather thinly peopled area of wheat lands of inexhaustible fertility. The commission intend in most cases to abandon the settlement of the question to the interested parties, the serf and the master, on the principle of offer and demand. The homestead in Russia proper is to consist of between thirty-five and forty acres. The mode of compensation for the lost estate in labor and land is to be the subject of mutual arrangement. Where no such arrangement is possible by mutual understanding, a board of commissioners will mediate, as was done in Prussia, and settle definitively the amount and nature of compensation.—This compensation is to be paid at once or by instalments, at the will of the parties, not extending, however, over thirty years; and so long as the debt is not paid, the peasant shall not be allowed to leave his homestead. Such is a general outline of the project devised, it is said, by the commission, and which is to be submitted, with various details, to the decision of the Emperor so soon as he reaches the capital on his return from his European tour.

Russia proper is alone affected by this measure. In Poland, before the relics of the kingdom created by the treaty of Vienna in 1815, the peasantry were emancipated at the beginning of this century by the Prussian Napoleon. But an immense majority of the emancipated then got no homesteads and do not now possess them, and thus depend on the pleasure of the land owners. Alexander II. has declared that the land-owners, mostly nobles, shall give homesteads to their tenants or laborers.—This decree is already in operation. The parties are to come to a settlement by a mutual agreement, and if in the course of five years no such agreement should be made, then the government will interfere and decide. For ten years to come, these new homesteads, acquired by the Polish peasants, are not to be sold by the possessors or to change hands. This restriction on the free action of the peasantry has its origin in the peculiar condition of the population, and its working will prove beneficial. In the duchy of Posen, a part of Poland under Prussian dominion since 1815, the peasantry received homesteads more than thirty years ago. But an immense majority of these small freeholds have passed into the hands of Germans, who are superior to the Poles in industry, culture, and the spirit of order. Thus, before the Poles had time to develop the qualities to enjoy their newly-acquired liberty, they lost their property or squandered it.—In Poland, incorporated with Russia and continuous with Prussia, the same peaceful change would easily take place. Thousands on thousands of Germans are already settled in Poland, and others will come thither, allured by the comparative cheapness of land. Moreover, the Jews, amounting in Poland proper to about 80,000, would likewise prove fatal to the hitherto uncultivated and rather disorderly Polish peasant. The ten years, therefore, fixed by law, during which he is prevented from sell-

ing his property, ought to be considered as a tutelary disposition, giving him time to serve his apprenticeship to a new and higher social condition.

In thus bringing before the American public a knowledge of the social evolution about to be performed in Russia, we fulfil an eminent duty. We hail with joy every moral and social progressive aura, even though dimly dawning, but inaugurating the emancipation of our brothers of whatever race or region. We entreat the attention of every one blindly upholding the sham-democratic and slavery-extensionist party to consider well the contrast which this Russian liberalism affords to American tyranny. He who does not feel ashamed that the colossal despotism of the world, as it is called, should be making a great stride toward emancipation as our democratic government, so styled, is departing from it, must incarnate in his proper person the essence of meanness, stupidity and party subservency.

A Flower Growing From a Tumefaction.

We mentioned a few days since, the case of the lad Northrop, at Ithaca, upon whose diseased limb there grew a singular formation, like to the passion flower. Dr. Hawley, formerly of Geneva College, has written a more detailed account of this case.—The lad is from 13 to 14 years old, and has been subject to tenderness and disease of the hip-joint, which, at two years of age, resulted in extensive tumefaction; three years later an abscess was formed, and finally caused the dislocation of the hip-joint. For four months the patient has been unable to move an inch in bed; abscesses have formed in the abdomen, through which the fecal contents of his intestines were discharged; and his nervous sensitiveness has been such that he would allow no one to touch him or make an investigation, and careless walking across the floor has caused him to cry out with pain. The prolongation of his life was regarded as a miracle. On the 4th inst., there was projected from the right limb, which for a long time had been greatly swollen, a stem, on the inner side, at the edge of the gastrocnemius muscle, rising at right angles with it, more than seven inches in height, a flower squarely set upon it, resembling the Passion Flower, or the China Aster. On Wednesday the boy felt an oozing from what had been expected to be an abscess, and expressed great relief. He did not permit any examination until Saturday afternoon, when a stem was seen arising at right angles with the limb, at about the height of three inches, crowned with pure white buds of the orange! On being exposed to the light, the flower expanded, and assumed the color of a beautiful greyish purple.—*Rockester Democrat.*

Swallowing Live Frogs.

More than forty years ago I recollect seeing one of my father's reapers, Mary Inglis by name, swallow several live frogs. It was done to cure herself of some stomach complaint (Pyrosis or water-brash, I believe) under which she was suffering.—When asked what she swallowed them for, she replied, that "there was nothing better than *paddy* for reddin' ane's puddin's."—When she administered her remedy she held the reptile by the two hinder feet, and bolted it over without any seeming repugnance! Mary is still alive, nearly four-score years of age, in the village of Auchincrow.—Can any one say whether the swallowing of frogs was, to any extent, used as a remedy in former times? The late eminent naturalist, Dr. George Johnston, of Berwick, once told me that he knew individuals who had used this remedy. And an aged acquaintance has just told me that, when a girl, employed in gleaning, she once saw a Highland-man swallow a young living frog.—*Cor. Notes and Queries.*

REFORM IN TUNIS.—Through the influence of the British and French governments, rendered convincing by the presence of eight French ships of war, the Bey of Tunis has been induced to grant important reforms to his people, in a new constitution. The concessions granted are:—1. Perfect security for life and property. 2. Equal taxation. 3. Equality before the law. 4. Religious freedom. 5. Limitation of the period of military service. 6. Admission of non-Mussulman assessors in the criminal tribunals. 7. Mixed Commercial tribunals. 8. Equal participation of all classes and denominations in immunities and privileges. 9. Free trade, and cession of the right of the government to traffic as heretofore. 10. Right of foreigners to make establishments and introduce foreign enterprise and industry. 11. Right of foreigners to purchase and possess real estate.

THE SLAVEHOLDERS AGAIN AT THE MAILS.

The publisher of the *Sabbath Recorder*, a Baptist paper issued in New York, has received the following letter from the postmaster of Janslev, Lewis County, Ky.:

"DEAR SIR:—I have been notified to examine your paper, and find it contrary to the laws of the State to hand it out of my office. You had better discontinue the paper. Your subscribers here are Rev. Samuel D. Davis and P. Pond. I shall retain your paper and not hand it out of my office." M. W. BELL, P. M.

The list of arrivals of specie at New York during the month of October, shows an aggregate of \$7,451,195. To this sum should be added the guaranteed acceptances received by the Persia, which are as good as gold. Of this large amount, it is believed that not more than \$500,000 have left the country; so that, notwithstanding the pressure, we have \$7,000,000 more specie than we had a month ago.

"John, stop your crying," said an enraged father to his son, who had kept up an intolerable "yell" for the past five minutes. "Stop, I say; do you hear?" again repeated the father, after a few minutes, the boy still crying. "You don't suppose I can choke off in a minute, do you?" chimed in the hopeful archer.

A Singular Disclosure.

It is no secret that Russia, during her late war with England and France, had at her command the inventive talent of the United States. Men of superior science and ability were detailed by the Emperor Nicholas to search the Patent Office, and investigate everywhere the latest improvement in military art; and whatever promised well carefully tested and generously rewarded.

Among other things, it was suggested to the late Russian Consul-General at New York that the terrible Greek fire of the ancients had been re-discovered by a young inventor of New York, who was experimenting on its application to a new system of military defences.

The Consul-General knew Mr. Mont Storm, the young inventor in question; and, on bringing forward the subject, was informed that whatever service he could render the inventor, he placed, without conditions, completely at the service of Russia until the close of the war.

The Allies were then before Sebastopol, and Mont Storm's first advice was to carry out a series of distinct wires from the citadel to the Redan, Malakoff, and every re-doubt and advanced post which could possibly fall into the hands of the Allies.—Caissons and huge shells of a particular construction, charged with powder, and a burning material difficult to extinguish, were to be laid in the most destructive positions under the outer defences, and connected with those concealed wires. By this application of the electric telegraph—for this it is in effect—these posts could be hurled, at will, to instant destruction at miles and leagues distance. Half a dozen vigilant and well-posted men could watch over and blow up, at the moment a foe obtained possession, any extent of fort, highway, or whatever approach they could manage to plant with these formidable shells.

Something of the kind was imperfectly attempted at the taking of lower Sebastopol; but the French discovered and cut the badly-concealed wires, too hastily put down at the last hour. The electric wire, however, must be counted henceforth in the list of military appliances, and, with the aid of the Greek fire, and what the inventor styles the "nautilus-principle," it may revolutionize the existing war-system as completely as cannon and gunpowder displaced chain-armor and archery.

It was, however, principally with reference to coast and harbor defence that Mont Storm valued his discoveries and combinations, and he was quickly preparing his experiments in that line, in co-operation with the Russian Consul-General, when the news came of the peace negotiations. Mont Storm then concluded to lay his plan before Congress, and ask for it a thorough public trial; and an accomplished designer and machinist was engaged to prepare the necessary drawings and specifications. This man was an English Mormon—a self-sacrificing devotee to his faith, but of excellent private character apart from that, and exemplary in the discharge of the business confided to his care.

The first set of drawings and specifications he prepared were submitted to Secretary Davis, with a request that he would refer them to some officer of ability, as the inventor wished the preliminary opinion of some experienced military man on certain points before they were presented to Congress. Secretary Davis complied with this request, and an officer of the highest character and capacity was consulted on the system. This officer and Gen. Quitman, chairman of the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, and two other gentlemen, formerly in the military and naval service of Texas, were the only parties entrusted with the details of Mont Storm's system of defence, with the exception, of course, of the inventor's Russian friends.

Upon the suggestion of some of these parties Mont Storm withdrew his plans from the Government archives, where they had been filed, and prepared to make a series of experiments on the best mode of exhibiting the incendiary material. As he was much occupied with some other invention, he made inquiry for a capable man to take charge of his experiments; and soon found one whose quick comprehension and mechanical ingenuity entirely fitted him to take charge of the business.

To compress the whole subject in one sentence, it now comes out that the pattern-maker and experimenters were all Mormons; and after becoming perfect masters of whatever there was to learn of the new system of land defence, they left the service of the inventor, and carried their knowledge to Utah. They had satisfied themselves that old kegs, hollow trees, common boxes, anything in short which could be made to contain a bottle of the burning fluid, a little powder, and a considerable amount of missiles, whether of balls, iron scraps or pebbles, and fragments of rock, could be converted into cheap and formidable batteries, whose discharge could be governed, at almost any distance, to a second of time; and the Mormons may be prepared to try the powers of the new system in the defiles of Utah.

It is admitted that the Mormons are manufacturing arms, and their arrogant defiance of the military forces of the United States, and the boastings of their elders that they are ready to send to swift destruction tens of thousands of the Gentiles, if they dare enter their Territory in battle array, may not be altogether without a serious meaning.—The absolute and final result of a conflict between the Mormons and the legal authorities of the United States must be the triumphant vindication of the law; but it will be well to look thoroughly into their capacity to give trouble, and be on the alert for every contingency.—*The States.*

Gov. Izard, of Nebraska, resigned his office on the 29th of October, and has left the Territory. He took his departure for his former residence in Arkansas. A successor has not yet been named. He assigns, as the main reason for the step, that the climate of Nebraska is so severe as to be unsuited to his constitution. His residence there last winter he characterizes as the most disagreeable part of his life.

JOB PRINTING.

The office of THE KANSAS NEWS is furnished with a complete assortment of the newest styles of Type, Borders, Flourishes, Cuts, Cards, Fancy Papers, Colored Inks, Bronze, &c., enabling the proprietor to print CIRCULARS, CARDS, CERTIFICATES OF STOCK, DEEDS, POWERS, and all other kinds of JOB PRINTING, in a manner unsurpassed in the country. Particular attention paid to printing all kinds of Blanks. Orders for work promptly attended to when accompanied with CASH. "EXCELLENCE" is our motto.

Demoralization of the Pro-Slavery Party.

Buchanan's election was a Southern triumph. The decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, by which the rights of property are proclaimed the most sacred of all rights; by which the being who is designated a "person" in the Constitution is transformed to a mere chattel, absolute and impersonal, and by which the enfranchising virtue of Free Soil is annulled within the Territory of the United States, is the greatest triumph which the South has achieved since the foundation of the Federal Government. And apparently victory is constant to the standard of the South. The National Democratic party has prospered during the past year. The opposition majorities have been either reduced or overcome, and the opposition minorities lessened, wherever elections have been recently held.

The Congress elect is Democratic, by a large majority, and the minority is divided. Seemingly the power of the National Democratic party is based on a firm foundation, and its ascendancy sure for an indefinite period. The obvious corollary is that the ineffectual fires of free labor will continue to pale before the superior genius of the South.

A closer scrutiny of the horizon will discover other signs deeply fraught with another meaning. The result of the late elections in the free States, rightly understood, attest the dominance of the Free Soil sentiment. The belief is universal throughout the North that Kansas will be a free State, that Buchanan sympathizes with the Free State men in that Territory, and that he will co-operate with them in consummating their enterprise. It was this belief which operated in Iowa, Ohio and New York, making large numbers of the Republicans passive, and subjecting the contest to the exclusive arbitrament of local questions. If the contrary belief prevailed, if it was even suspected that the destiny of Kansas was not finally settled, we should have seen a repetition of the Fremont majorities. Whether the North will be wholly Republican—one solid column—depends upon the issue of the struggle between freedom and slavery in Kansas.

The South is divided upon this question. The more sagacious leaders of the Southern Democracy see the necessity of leaving Kansas to fulfill her manifest destiny. They have learned that she cannot be tortured into a slave State, nor cheated into a slave State; that no force, however brutal, or fraud, however diabolical, can "subdue" the fixed resolve of her people. They wisely bow to a power which they cannot conquer or circumvent. How despicable is the conduct of the other Southern leaders who are still intent upon forcing slavery upon the Territory! They censure Walker for the very few honest acts of his will and subservient career. They pass resolutions of confidence in Walker's master. Too vindictive to tolerate an act of justice in a subordinate officer—too cowardly to assail the great attorney who feeds hungry politicians—they compromise with their vengeance for the sake of the spoils. Participation in the spoils is among the dearest of Southern rights. They know that the vast majority of the people of the Territory are Free State men, yet they are bent upon outraging them by the imposition of an alien and detested institution simply as a badge of conquest, for no other purpose can it serve. They trample upon all natural and political right, and appeal to the law as vehemently as the crafty Jew of Venice. They resist the democratic principle of holding sacred the will of the people, countenance an instrument which emanates from the last avatar of Missouri ruffianism, and yet flatter themselves they are the Democratic party. Such democracy will soon find a dishonored grave. The South is radically divided. The organs of Jefferson Davis have actually read out the frontier slave States, including Virginia, from the ranks of the pro-slavery party. The organization which abolished the Missouri compromise and called up the spirit of sectional discord, is certainly demoralized.

How vividly the history of Kansas illustrates the comparative strength of the two sections. The Missouri compromise was repealed to add another slave State to the Union. The South was backed by the Federal Government—the North had only her intrinsic strength to rely upon. Notwithstanding Federal bayonets, Federal money, stout and plant official tools, Missouri invasions, Palmetto regiments, and a host of warriors, Gen. Atchison, Col. Titus, Gen. Reed, Major Buford, and all the other brigand leaders, yet the unstimulated energies of free institutions overcame them all, and saved Kansas. Could anything show more plainly the weakness of the South? And what becomes of the balance of power—the theory of Calhoun and Caleb Cushing? The next Congress will admit at least two new free States—legitimate developments of Northern institutions. By the peaceful method of immigration, the free States widen the area of free soil. By war, forcible annexation, and lavish expenditure of the public money, the territory of slave soil is increased. The purchase of Cuba, and the piracy of Walker, are now the only means which the South relies upon for restoring the balance of power, but the scale in which her weight is placed will kick the beam to the end of time, or at least to the end of the struggle.—*Missouri Democrat.*

THE POPE ON SLAVERY.—"Not only does the Christian Religion, but nature itself, cry out against the state of Slavery."—*Pope Leo X.*

Pope Leo X would make a strange democrat. Douglas would pronounce him a "screeching abolitionist." And yet nineteen-twentieths of the Catholics of the United States, stand by the Democratic leaders in declaring that one portion of the human family should be the slaves of another portion.—*Wisconsin Free Democrat.*

Mr. Henry Shaw, a wealthy gentleman of St. Louis, has declared his intention to rent a vacant lot and fill it with wood for the benefit of the poor of St. Louis, the coming winter.